



PHOTOGRAPHY/ JACK MONSON

Quain Peterson leads oxen, favorite subjects for visitors' cameras, around the park.

Pioneer Trail Park visitors look at harvest days past

By Angelyn Nelson Hutchinson
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Many women today dread fall when they think about home canning.

Canning with its peeling, chopping, coring, scalding and pressure cooking over a hot stove is something of a chore. It's much easier to run down to the supermarket for a can or two of peaches than to put up 25 quarts or so every fall.

But, from the demonstrations at Pioneer Trail State Park Saturday, today's food preservation is a breeze, even if the modern homemaker turns to what she thinks are old-fashioned methods.

For the last five years, the park has celebrated the onset of the fall season with demonstrations and activities to show how Utah's pioneers prepared for their harsh winters.

Fall was the time for preserving by drying fruits and vegetables and salting and smoking meats. Pioneer women dipped candles and made soap. Apples, onions and potatoes were harvested and stored in root cellars. It was a busy time of year.

In the 19th Century, pressure cookers hadn't been invented yet. "They used the open kettle method and then sealed their mason jars or crocks with paraffin wax," reported Patricia Smith, park curator for education.

That method didn't always get the desired result. "I read in one pioneer journal the account of a woman who opened the crock in the winter only to find mold growing across the top of the wax. She carefully scooped out the mold and her family ate the food," she said.

And, of course, there weren't any electric or gas ranges for easy mass canning. The open kettle method in the pioneer era also meant an open fire place. It could add new meaning to the expression "slaving over a hot stove."

Pioneer women, who didn't have the luxury of air conditioning, or even short sleeved-dresses, stood in small cabins, such as the Gardiner cabin at the park, and cooked while swimming in perspiration.

Park interpreters, who explained pioneer customs to visitors, dressed in the attire of the period. And they were the first to admit that pioneer dress leaves nothing to comfort.

Smith, who wore a cotton dress in an 1850s style and bonnet, explained that the typical dress, which was lined, contained 15 yards of material. It hung to the floor and had long sleeves. The pioneer woman was also required to wear two petticoats, pantaloons and corsets

much more practical, but the women didn't like it. They were very concerned about fashion," she reported.

"You do get used to them (dresses) after a while. At first you can't stand the heat and you can't go up and down stairs. But then for some reason your body adjusts," she added.

Drying food was also more primitive at pioneer harvests. The pioneers just set the food out in the sun and covered it with cheesecloth to keep off the flies. Smith found one pioneer recipe in an 1850 Deseret News that was tried at a previous park harvest.

The recipe for tomato figs called for tomatoes to be heavily sugared and then dried in the sun like figs. "They were simply awful," Smith reported.

Much of the fruit dried by the pioneers was later rehydrated and used to make pies and other desserts. Fruit leather, made in the fall, was a special wintertime treat for pioneer children.

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Cattle were slaughtered and deer hunted so the meat could be dried for winter use. But it was also important to collect the fat for making candles. At the Charles C. Rich cabin Saturday, Mary Despain dipped candles. Although the more affluent pioneers used a tin mold, most dipped them by hand and it took an hour per candle. "We always ask the little kids how they get light today and they answer, 'With the flip of a switch,'" Despain said.

Smith thinks the park's activities focusing on the lifestyle in early Utah serve a valuable purpose by showing the differences and similarities in life.

The harvest celebration will continue Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. and Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is 50¢ for the first child, 25¢ for the second child, and 10¢ for the third child.

Bundle up newspapers for recycling program

Plastic bags with the logo "Newspaper to Trees" found in Saturday's Deseret News are to be used by Salt Lake residents to bundle newspapers for a stepped-up recycling program beginning in September.

The bags will not be distributed again, but newspapers will be collected on a home's first garbage day of the month.

Collection will be handled by the private firm Utah Recycling, which will pay Salt Lake City \$5.10 for each ton collected.

The city estimates it will raise between \$15,000 and \$20,000 annually from the program. The money will be used to buy trees for the city's residential neighborhoods.

The project will not only save paper, but the city will save money by not adding trash to the landfill.

Residents are asked to put only newspapers in the sacks. Roger Gillespie of Utah Recycling said magazines and old phone books are not wanted for this program. The papers will be picked up separately by the collection firm, not by regular garbage crews. If papers are missed by the collection firm, residents can call Utah Recycling.

Jewish center will offer exercise, Hebrew classes

Registration is under way for fall classes at the Jewish Community Center, 2416 E. 17th South.

Information is available at 581-0098. Classes start Sept. 22.

Exercise classes include Hatha Yoga, basic exercising and Vivaerobics.

Beginning and intermediate Hebrew classes also will be offered.

SOWARDS

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again. For me, it's over."

Sowards was considered a popular politician in eastern Utah. "Most of the time, I was unopposed in my elections."

But that changed this year.

Not only did Myrin, a rancher from Duchesne County who has served several terms in the House, challenge fellow Republican Sowards — a rare occurrence for a sitting senator — but the race turned bitter before the end.

The bankruptcy of Sowards' family business was dragged up again — "I thought that was settled a long time ago," Sowards said.

The senator's new government consulting business was questioned and examined for improprieties. As rumors flew, Sowards' reputation suffered.

In hindsight, a number of unrelated items probably contributed to his downfall. He moved from Vernal to Park City, and so lost some of his old hometown contacts. A Duchesne County commissioner actively campaigned against him.

But Sowards sees his greatest weakness as beyond his control. "The economy in the Basin is terrible, people are dissatisfied."

"We took a poll July 23 in Ashley Valley. Of the 325 people contacted, 296 didn't even know who Alarik Myrin was. They (the public) didn't vote for Alarik. They voted against Glade Sowards."

He says a letter to the editor in a recent issue of the local Vernal paper says it right: "The silent majority has spoken. They didn't vote for anything. They voted against everything."

Sowards said he felt terrible about the results and was very hurt — he didn't even answer his telephone election night. He lost, 2,486 votes to Myrin's 4,796 — 34 percent to 66 percent. But upon reflection, his pain has eased. Now he thinks he was a victim, like other Duchesne County officials, of incumbency.

"I had to carry most of the counties by good margins to make up for Alarik's strong showing in Duchesne County, his home. And I did. I won Daggett and Carbon counties. I carried Summit County by 9-to-1. We were even in

Wasatch County. So the key was Uintah County. I had to win there."

But he didn't. He lost Uintah County big.

He takes solace in his company. "Every Republican incumbent in the county, except two widows, lost. And the losers lost by the same percentages that I did," Sowards says.

Leo Snow (not really an incumbent but a former county commissioner) lost to Nyle Bigelow in the four-year GOP commission race. Incumbent County Commissioner Bryce Caldwell lost to Jim Reidhead in the two-year GOP commission race. Incumbent Assessor Don Walker was defeated by Lorin Merkley. County Attorney Mark Nash was defeated by Alvin Nash. And Sheriff Arden Stewart was defeated by Drew Christiansen. The voter turnout was heavy, 48 percent.

"Everybody went under," Sowards said. "I'm not bitter. The system worked. The people spoke. Just because I lost doesn't mean the system isn't good. It is."

But, he admits, it hurts to lose. "At least I know that among the people who really know what I did, my peers in the Senate, I wasn't criticized."

Sowards was referring, in part, to charges of conflict of interest raised during the campaign. One reason Myrin decided to challenge Sowards was Myrin's concern about Sowards' government consulting business.

Sowards readily admits that he took consulting fees from two different trade groups who took opposite stands on a controversial trucking deregulation bill, a bill that Sowards, a former truck hauler, watched like a hawk. Sowards ultimately voted against a compromise deregulation bill, but he maintains he didn't try to scuttle the bill. His 'no' vote angered the trade group that favored the bill, had paid him for consulting work and believed he'd vote their way.

"I told them from the outset, 'You can buy my consulting, but you can't buy my vote,'" Sowards said. But others saw his actions as dishonorable. Myrin filed against him, and rumors of Sowards' actions dogged him through the primary campaign.

"I don't think my consulting business hurt me. If I'd lost throughout the counties, then I could see it. But I really only lost big in Uintah County. And so did those other Republican incumbents."

HOT

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classrooms, but the frequency varies according to the weather.

Last year, for example, few teachers and parents complained because the weather turned cool at the first of September and May was rainy. In other years, warmer Septembers and Mays have prompted more phone calls to the district.

Penrod, who oversees buildings and their maintenance, has studied the possibility of installing air conditioning in the schools districtwide, but he questions the cost effectiveness with the basically September-through-May schedule, especially when education dollars are at such a premium. "Are you going to spend millions of dollars for a few weeks each year?"

Besides the cost of installation, there are other considerations. There are what Penrod called the fairly significant increase in utility costs plus the maintenance. "This is what's referred to as a tender area and requires a lot of maintenance."

In addition, his district study revealed that the mechanical systems of many schools would adapt poorly to air conditioning.

The issue's complexion changes somewhat when year-round schools are added to the picture. Next year, four Davis County schools in rapid-growth areas will become part of a pilot study operating on an extended school-year schedule. They include Knowlton Elementary School, Farmington; Boulton Elementary School, Bountiful; and Layton and Adams Elementary Schools, Layton.

The cost of air conditioning may or may not be prohibitive for the extended schedule. That's a question that will

be studied within the next year. Penrod said the concerns are real "if the learning environment becomes unproductive."

He said those studying the issue will look at a number of alternatives, in addition to air conditioning, so extremely hot classrooms can be avoided. They might, for example, include an earlier school day, with school starting at 7 a.m. and ending before the hottest hours of the afternoon, or an extended school-year schedule that doesn't include any days in July, usually the hottest month of the year.

Whatever happens, it's a topic that teachers intend to have fully addressed, said Crabtree.

Edrice Christensen, PTA director for Region 3, which includes all of Davis County, said the PTA also is watching the air conditioning issue and any decisions made about an extended year. "We're concerned about excellence in education, and the climate is vital to that. We need the best environment in those buildings."

She pointed out that ultimately, if more and more school districts embrace the year-round school concept, a special appropriation from the Legislature may be required. "We joked about it, but maybe if the legislators had to meet in one of our hot classrooms with a lot of kids, they'd be willing to spend more money on such things (air conditioning)," she said.

3 teens sexually assault 8-year-old girl

An 8-year-old girl was sexually assaulted in a church parking lot last week, according to a report filed with the Salt Lake County sheriff's office.

The girl was walking behind the church at 3400 S. 11th East Tuesday when she was approached by three teenage boys, who forced her to take off her clothes, then assaulted her.

The assailants, all described as Caucasian, were strangers to the victim, the report said.